(c) In order to prevent and control the spread of HIV/AIDS in India, Govt. of India has launched a comprehensive National AIDS Control Programme, currently under implementation throughout the country as a centrally sponsored scheme under following components:-

- Preventive interventions for high-risk populations through targeted interventions adopting a multi-pronged strategy including peer counseling and behaviour change communication.
- Preventive interventions for the general population through programmes for blood safety, voluntary counselling and testing services, Prevention of Parent to Child Transmission (PPTCT), Information Education and Communication (IEC).
- Provision of low cost care and support services by providing community care services, treatment of opportunistic infections, free Antiretroviral therapy in designated centres and prevention of occupational exposure.
- Collaborative efforts to promote inter-sectoral programme activities including workplace interventions and public-private partnerships.
- Build technical and managerial capacities for programme implementation through Surveillance, Training, Monitoring and Evaluation. Technical Resource Groups, operational research and Programme management.

Hardships faced by Government employees in private hospitals

1378. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether serving employees of the Central Government have to pay first for their treatment in private hospitals, if referred by CGHS, and then make their claims for refunds later;

(b) whether Government employees are put to hardship under this rule;

(c) if so, whether it is proposed to enable the Government employees to get treatment without paying anything in private hospitals in all types of treatment;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Serving employees of Central Government possessing a valid CGHS card have the option of availing specialized treatment/diagnostic tests at the CGHS recognised private hospitals/diagnostic centres after the CGHS/ Government Specialist/CMO In-charge of the CGHS dispensary recommends the medical procedure/test and permission is obtained from the office where the Government servant is employed. Medical advance of up to 90% of the Government/package rate for the medical procedure can be obtained from the office where the Government servant is employed. The balance admissible amount of approximatly 10% is reimbursed by the office to the Government servant upon making the claim for medical reimbursement.

(c) to (e) In view of (a) and (b) above, the questions do not arise.

Diseases due to tobacco products

†1379. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the consumption of gutkha and tobacco is injurious to health, if so, the different kinds of diseases likely to be caused because of their consumption;

(b) whether Government have adopted any system to inform and warn the people of the country in this regard, if so, the details of said system; and

(c) the number of persons who have been victims of cancer or any other diseases due to consumption of gutkha and tobacco during the last three years and the number of persons out of them who died, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) Tobacco

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.